



Ogmore and Garw
Urban District Council

R E P O R T
of the
Medical Officer
of Health

For the Year 1966

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OGMORE AND GARW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Staff of the Public Health Department :

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Medical Officer of Health

J. A. SADLER, M.A.P.H.I., Meat and Other Foods Certificate
Chief Public Health Inspector

C. R. MORGAN, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Meat and Other Foods
Public Health Inspector Certificate

Miss J. GRIFFITHS, Clerk

E. W. OWEN, Pupil Public Health Inspector

E. PRITCHARD, Rodent Operative

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County Councillor I. O. Thomas

Councillor T. Evans

Councillor Mrs. F. R. John

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Ogmore and Garw Urban District Council.

I beg to submit the 68th Annual Report of the Ogmore and Garw Urban District Council drawn up in accordance with Circular 1/67 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

The estimated population of your area decreased by 130 to 20,670 during the year, the lowest figure since 1902. The Birth Rate also fell, while the Death Rate increased, compared with 1965. The number of Infant Deaths was nine, one fewer than in 1965.

There were no serious epidemics of infectious disease; although 50 cases of Bacillary Dysentery were notified, they were mild in character. The incidence of Tuberculosis continued to decline.

Poor housing continued to be a source of discomfort and ill-health to many residents of your area. Nevertheless, a further 75 new houses were built, including 69 at Lewistown, the first to be completed on the site that was awarded a Gold Medal for Good Design by the Welsh Office.

The facilities for both Refuse and Sewage Disposal gave concern to the staff of the Health Department during the year. I am glad to report, however, that plans were drawn up for the provision of an improved service at Brynmenyn Sewage Works.

The inspection of the area continued to be of a high standard, and a close supervision was kept on all aspects of public hygiene.

I commenced my duties on November 1st, 1966, and therefore most of the material in this report relates to a period when my predecessor, Dr. B. T. Jones, was Medical Officer of Health. I am indebted to him for the conscientious and devoted way in which he carried out his duties.

I wish to thank Mr. Sadler, Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Morgan, Public Health Inspector, for their kindness in helping to make me acquainted with the District, in giving me the benefit of their knowledge and experience, and also for their contribution to this report. I wish also to thank Miss Griffiths for the most efficient way she has carried out the clerical work of the Public Health Department, including the statistical work that this report necessitated.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

1. Area (Acres)	17,924
2. Estimated Mid-Year Population	20,670
3. Number of inhabited houses	6,517
4. Rateable Value (1st April, 1966)	£340,987
5. Product of a Penny Rate	£1,285

GENERAL HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

1. Services provided by Glamorgan County Council.

- (a) Personal Health Services, administered by the Divisional Medical Officer, Divisional Health Offices, Quarella Road, Bridgend (Tel. 2515).

Weekly Infant Welfare Clinics are provided at :—

Glanrhyd, Nantymoel

The Clinic, Park Avenue, Ogmore Vale

The Clinic, Betws

Fortnightly Infant Welfare Clinics are provided at :—

Tabernacle Vestry, Blaengarw

The Clinic, Alexandra Road, Pontycymer

Social Club, Llangeinor

Mission Hall, Blackmill

Bethania Vestry, Evanstown

Welfare Hall, Lewistown

Antenatal Clinics are provided at :

Glanrhyd, Nantymoel

The Clinic, Ogmore Vale

Dental Clinics are provided at :—

Ogmore Vale and Pontycymer

In addition the County Council Public Health Department provides the following services :—Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Chiropody, Home Help and the School Medical Service.

- (b) Welfare Services, administered by the Area Clerk, Area Office, Wyndham Street, Bridgend. Tel. Bridgend 3534
Officers of the Welfare Department give assistance and advice to those in need of hostel accommodation, the blind and the handicapped.

There is one residential home in the area, Trem-y-Mor, Betws with places for 14 men and 21 women.

- (c) Children's Department administered by :—

The Area Children's Officer, Area Office, Minerva Street, Bridgend. Tel. Bridgend 2930.

2. Hospital Services.

The hospitals serving your area are controlled by the Welsh Hospital Board, Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff, and administered by the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee, "Garthmor," Old Road, Neath.

They are :—

- (a) Bridgend General Hospital, Quarella Road. Tel. Bridgend 3341 (408 acute beds).
(b) Blackmill Isolation Hospital. Tel. Ogmore Valley 207 (28 Infectious Fever Beds ; 16 Preconvalescent Beds).
(c) Maesgwyn Hospital, Bryncethin. Tel. Aberkenfig 371 (61 Geriatric Beds ; Accommodation for 25 day Patients).
(d) Bridgend Chest Clinic, Nolton Street, Bridgend. Tel. Bridgend 2345.
(e) V.D. Clinic, Oakwood Street, Port Talbot.

In addition, there are three Mental Hospitals administered by the Morgannwg Hospital Management Committee :—

- (f) Penyffai Hospital. Tel. Bridgend 3391 (120 beds).
(g) Glanrhyd Hospital. Tel. Bridgend 3391 (780 beds).
(h) Parc Hospital. Tel. Bridgend 4241 (1,042 beds).

3. General Medical and Dental Practitioner Services.

These services are provided by the Glamorgan Executive Council, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff. Tel. Cardiff 26216.

4. National Assistance Act, 1948.

- (a) Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. It was necessary to implement this section of the Act on one occasion during the year for the removal of such a person to a Welfare Hostel for a period of three weeks.
- (b) Section 50. Burial of the Dead.
The Council accepted responsibility for the burial of one person during the year.
- (c) Section 31. This allows for the product of a penny rate to be made available to Old-age Pensioners' Associations in the area. The Council exercises this right.

5. National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1962.

Meals on Wheels Service.

This service is operated by voluntary workers and became thoroughly established during the year, with 36 meals being distributed twice weekly in both valleys. In addition a small number of meals were provided to residents of Evanstown by the Meals on Wheels Service of the Llantrisant and Llantwit Fardre Rural District Council, to which authority our thanks are due.

In the Garw Valley the Management Committee continued under the Chairmanship of Councillor J. Lawrence, with Mrs. L. M. Maddock as Secretary, and in the Ogmere Valley the service was under the combined management of the Old People's Welfare Committee (Secretary Mrs. M. A. Williams) and The Young Wives Association (Secretary Mrs. D. M. Owen). The day-to-day running of the service was carried out by Miss J. Griffiths of the Health Department, as an addition to her other duties. The meals are prepared by the catering staffs of the Wyndham and Ffaldau Colliery Canteens, to whom our thanks are also due.

On the last day of the year, the Council gave the workers a tea at the Ambulance Hall, Blaengarw, as a token of their gratitude, and County Alderman G. Adams, Vice-Chairman of the Glamorgan County Council Welfare Committee was kind enough to attend as chief guest and gave an interesting address.

6. Disabled Persons (Employment) Acts.

There were 343 persons on the disabled register in your area, 321 of whom were men and 22 women. Table 1 lists them in their Disability Groups. As might be expected, the largest group, numbering 100, is composed of men suffering from pneumoconiosis.

<i>Disability Group</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Amputation	25	1
Arthritis and Rheumatism	5	—
Diseases of Digestive System	8	—
Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System	12	4
Diseases of Respiratory System (other than T.B.)	118 (includes 100 pneumoconiotics)	1
Diseases of skin and cellular tissue	2	1
Ear Defects	4	1
Eye Defects	12 (includes 3 registered blind)	3 (includes 2 registered blind)
Injuries to Head, Face, Neck, Thorax, Abdomen, Pelvis & Trunk	10	—
Diseases, Injuries & Deformities of Lower Limb	34	4
Diseases, Injuries & Deformities of Upper Limb	17	1
Injuries, Diseases & Deformities of Spine	42	4
Mental Disorders	11	1
Organic Nervous Diseases	9	—
Tuberculosis	6	1
Other General Diseases (Blood, Diabetes, etc.)	5	1
	— 321 —	— 22 —

Table 1

VITAL STATISTICS

The main vital statistics of the area for the past twenty-one years are listed in Table 2, and those for Glamorgan for 1966 at the end of the report.

1. Live Births.

			Male	Female	Total
Live Births	.....	.....	175	145	320
Crude Birth Rate	.....	.....			15.45
(corrected to reflect Population Structure)					15.94

The live births for the year numbered 320, of which 20, ten male and ten female, were illegitimate. This is the lowest number of live-births recorded in your area during the past twenty years with the exception of 1954. In 1965 there were 337 Live Births.

76 of the live births, of which 42 were male and 34 female, were born at home. The remainder, 244 or 76.3% of the total, were born in local maternity hospitals.

2. Still Births.

			Male	Female	Total
Still Births	.....	.....	2	3	5
Still Birth Rate	.....	.....			15.38

The Stillbirth, or Late Foetal Mortality Rate is defined as the number of births at or over 28 weeks gestation which were not live born, per thousand total births (Live and still).

There were five stillbirths notified during the year, two male and three female, one of which was illegitimate.

The causes of death were as follows :—

Anencephaly	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Maternal Toxaemia	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

It is seen therefore, that four of the stillbirths were due to gross abnormalities of the Central Nervous System.

THE MAIN VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE PAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS

Year	Estimated Mid-Year Population	Live Births		Deaths		Infant Mortality		Still Births	
		No.	Adjusted Rate	No.	Adjusted Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1946	23,310	435	19.5	275	11.8	15	32.7	20	43.9
1947	23,000	462	20.1	307	13.3	21	45.0	22	45.5
1948	22,720	457	20.1	272	12.0	22	48.0	3	6.5
1949	22,720	426	18.80	283	12.50	13	31.0	13	31.0
1950	22,620	353	15.61	312	13.80	16	45.3	7	19.3
1951	22,480	356	15.84	313	13.92	9	25.8	11	29.9
1952	22,550	395	18.40	262	11.62	25	63.29	8	19.7
1953	22,420	375	17.57	258	12.54	16	42.60	11	28.4
1954	22,340	312	13.65	272	13.52	14	46.36	10	32.0
1955	22,240	329	14.93	269	12.23	7	21.28	17	48.0
1956	22,240	360	16.35	273	14.73	12	33.33	7	19.0
1957	22,180	339	15.28	256	13.96	10	29.50	9	28.60
1958	22,070	385	17.44	252	13.82	11	28.57	8	20.00
1959	22,010	361	16.40	257	14.13	8	22.16	13	37.40
1960	21,920	330	15.05	295	13.46	10	30.30	13	37.90
1961	20,980	388	18.49	249	14.36	5	12.89	10	25.12
1962	21,050	354	16.82	239	13.73	13	36.72	10	27.47
1963	21,010	413	20.25	266	15.70	12	29.06	6	14.31
1964	20,890	365	17.11	258	15.31	13	37.46	4	11.30
1965	20,800	337	16.69	248	14.66	10	29.67	4	11.37
1966	20,670	320	15.94	261	15.41	9	28.13	5	15.38

Table 2

3. Infant Mortality.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths under 1 year	3	6	9
Infantile Mortality Rate			28.13

The Infantile Mortality Rate is defined as the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age per thousand registered live births.

There were nine infantile deaths notified during the year, three male and six female, all of which were legitimate. This is one fewer than in 1965, and the fourth lowest figure recorded during the past twenty years.

Nevertheless, the Infantile Mortality Rate continues to compare unfavourably with that of Glamorgan as a whole (21.17) and that of England and Wales (19), and in order to reduce it further the greatest vigilance and thoroughness is required in the medical and nursing care of the expectant mother. Four of the nine infant deaths were notified as being due to Prematurity (that is, weighing less than 5½lbs. at birth) and it is known that the premature infant has a far higher mortality than the child of normal birth-weight. The early diagnosis and prompt treatment of conditions such as toxæmia of pregnancy which are associated with premature labour play a large part in achieving a lower infant mortality.

The main causes and age of death were as follows :—

Cause	Under 1 day	1 week	1 month	Over 1 month under 1 year
Prematurity	4	—	—	—
Congenital Abnormality	1	1	—	—
Birth Injury	1	—	—	—
Asphyxia	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia.....	—	—	—	1

Table 3

All of the seven Deaths under one week occurred in Bridgend General Hospital.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE OGMORE AND GARW AREA DURING 1966

	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>
1—Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	—	1
2—Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	3	5	8
3—Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	1	9
4—Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	5	5
5—Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	2	2
6—Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	10	18
7—Diabetes	—	1	1
8—Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	12	20
9—Coronary Disease, Angina	36	15	51
10—Other Heart Disease	21	15	36
11—Other Circulatory Disease	7	5	12
12—Influenza	1	—	1
13—Pneumonia	2	9	11
14—Bronchitis	28	7	35
15—Other Diseases of Respiratory System	9	1	10
16—Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—	1
17—Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
18—Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
19—Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	9	20	29
20—Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
21—All Other Accidents	1	1	2
22—Suicide	1	2	3
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	147	114	261

Table 4

4. Deaths.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Number of Deaths	147	114	261
Crude Death Rate			12.63
Adjusted Death Rate			15.41

There were 261 deaths during the year, of which 147 were males, and 114 females. This gave a Crude Death Rate of 12.63 per thousand population, which, when adjusted to relate to the age structure of the population, rose to 15.41. This was the second highest Adjusted Death Rate in Glamorgan and compares with a figure of 13.9 for the Administrative County, and 11.7 for England and Wales. The Rate was the second highest since 1946, being exceeded only in 1963.

The persistently high Death Rate in your area is due to a number of factors. One is undoubtedly the very high proportion of the male population employed in coal mining, an industry traditionally associated with a mortality well above the average. The dust prevention programme and the medical service of the National Coal Board are slowly reducing this excessive mortality.

The causes of death are set out in Table 4 and it will be seen that the chief causes of death, as in previous years, are, in order of frequency, Coronary Disease (51), Other Heart Diseases (36), Bronchitis (35) and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System (20).

In men the largest number of deaths occurred in the age-groups 65-75 years (50), with those 55-65 years second (39), and those over 75 years third (36).

In the case of women, much the greater number (53) died over 75 years, with those 65-75 years second (26), and those 55-65 years third (17).

In the younger section of the population, those over one year and under 35 years, there were six deaths, four of which were accidental, three of them due to road traffic accidents.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Tables giving the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases by Ward and by Month of onset are to be found at the end of the Report.

1. Tuberculosis.

Five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, three male and two female. No cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. In addition, there was one male death due to pulmonary tuberculosis. This compares with two deaths in 1965, and has only been bettered in 1959 when there were none.

It can be seen in Table 5 that there has been a steady decline in both notifications of, and deaths from, tuberculosis during the past twenty years. The number of notifications, 5, equalled that in 1965, the lowest figure recorded in your area.

Whereas tuberculosis used to be primarily an acute disease of young adults, it is today largely confined to the older age-groups, and in coalmining areas, often presents as a complication of pneumoconiosis. Two of the cases notified this year were in fact diagnosed after death from other chest diseases.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications and Deaths 1947-1966

Year			NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1947	....	....	19	28	13	8	6	7	—	—
1948	....	....	15	16	3	4	5	10	—	1
1949	....	....	11	24	5	7	7	6	—	—
1950	....	....	11	12	4	5	4	5	1	1
1951	....	....	7	3	1	4	7	4	—	1
1952	....	....	12	13	3	5	8	3	—	1
1953	....	....	22	12	4	3	6	1	—	2
1954	....	....	12	16	1	2	1	2	1	—
1955	....	....	9	18	2	1	3	4	—	—
1956	....	....	7	11	—	—	1	3	—	—
1957	....	....	5	5	2	2	4	—	1	—
1958	....	....	8	7	1	3	1	1	1	1
1959	....	....	12	9	5	2	—	—	—	—
1960	....	....	11	3	1	2	2	1	—	—
1961	....	....	10	5	3	1	—	1	—	—
1962	....	....	5	1	—	2	2	1	—	—
1963	....	....	4	1	1	1	4	1	—	—
1964	....	....	11	2	2	1	1	1	—	—
1965	....	....	3	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
1966	....	....	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—

Table 5

Details of Notified Cases of Tuberculosis 1966

Case No.	Age	Sex	Occupation	No. of Residents in house	Comment
1	51	M	Ex-Miner	4	Discharged after five months.
2	72	M	Ex-Miner	9	Diagnosed at Death
3	58	F	Housewife	4	Discharged after one month
4	51	F	Housewife	3	Discharged after four months
5	60	M	Miner	Not known	Diagnosed at Death

Table 6

A gratifying aspect of the treatment of tuberculosis is the rapidity with which a response is made to modern drug therapy. It can be seen in Table 6 that the three patients who were admitted to hospital primarily on account of tuberculosis were all fit for discharge within 1-5 months.

The fatal case of tuberculosis occurred in a miner, and pneumoconiosis was certified as a contributory cause of death.

There were 153 persons, 79 males and 74 females, on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year in the Ogmre and Garw Valleys, and a further 21, 12 male and 9 female, in Evanstown making a total of 174.

2. Whooping Cough.

There were 38 notifications of Whooping Cough during the year, 32 of which were in the Tynewydd Ward. This compares with 19 in 1965, and an average of 40 for the past ten years. Of the 38, four were admitted to hospital, but in none of them was the causative organism isolated. An investigation into the immunization state of the notified cases showed that only eight of these children had completed a full course of three injections of Triple Antigen while another four had been partially immunized. 24 had received no immunization against whooping cough. The conclusions to be drawn would appear to be that Pertussis, when it occurs, is mild, and while it does occur in the immunized, it is far more common in the small number of non-immunized children.

3. Measles.

111 cases of Measles were notified during the year, the majority occurring between May and August. This compares with 130 in 1965.

Table 7 shows clearly the biennial pattern characteristic of the epidemiology of this disease, whereby an epidemic year is followed by a year in which few cases occur as most of the child population has been made immune by contracting the disease. By the third year a sufficient number of younger susceptible children has grown up to permit a further epidemic.

Year	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Number of Notifications	57	418	21	255	12	778	66	382	191	130	111

Table 7

4. Enteric Fever.

One isolated case of Paratyphoid Fever occurred during the year. This was a child of seven months, and the infecting organism was *Salmonella* Paratyphi B, phage type Dundee. A rapid response was made to antibiotic treatment.

5. Bacillary Dysentery.

50 cases of Bacillary Dysentery, all due to *Sh. Sonnei*, were diagnosed during the year. The epidemic occurred, mainly between January and April, in the Tynewydd Ward, and was mild in character, only twelve cases being admitted to hospital. Nevertheless, considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining negative swabs in some cases, and a great effort was required by the staff of the Health Department to contain the disease.

6. Scarlet Fever.

There were 36 notifications during the year, compared with 31 in 1965, and 28 of these occurred in the Tynewydd Ward. The average number of notifications for the past ten years is 35.

They were mild in character and only four required admission to Blackmill Hospital.

7. Food Poisoning.

Three cases of food poisoning were diagnosed during the year, one due to *Salmonella* Liverpool and two due to *Salmonella* Typhi-murium.

Salmonella Typhi-murium is usually the commonest cause of food poisoning in England and Wales, and the two cases which occurred in your area, both young children, were neighbours. The source of the infection was not found but the children responded satisfactorily to antibiotic therapy.

The third patient, also a young child, was infected by a much rarer organism, *Salmonella* Liverpool; and similarly responded satisfactorily.

A table showing the annual return of food poisoning made to the Ministry of Health is included at the end of the report.

OTHER DISEASES

1. Malignant Disease.

There were 42 deaths from Cancer and other malignant diseases during 1966, compared with 50 in 1965, and an average of 37.5 for the past ten years. 19 of these were men and 23 women.

Cancer of the lung and bronchus was the commonest individual site with nine deaths, eight of whom were men. There were eight deaths from cancer of the stomach, and five from cancer of the breast.

2. Bronchitis.

There were 35 deaths from Bronchitis, compared with 30 in 1965, and an average of only 19 for the past ten years.

In 21 of the 28 male deaths the bronchitis was associated with emphysema. As is usual with this disease, it was far commoner as a cause of death during the colder months, and only three deaths were certified during the warm months of June-September.

3. Coronary Disease.

There were 51 deaths, 36 male and 15 female, from Coronary Disease and Angina during 1966. This is twelve more than in 1965, and slightly above the average for the past ten years. Since Coronary Disease was first separately recorded as a cause of death in 1950, there had been a general upward trend in the number of deaths from the disease in the district as there has been in England and Wales as a whole, and it is disturbing to note that eight of the deaths occurred in men under the age of 55 years, three of whom were under 45 years.

4. Mental Illness.

There were 40 admissions from the Ogmore and Garw Area to the Morgannwg Hospital in 1966, of which 13 were men and 27 women.

The age groups of these patients were as follows :—

Sex	Under 40	40-60	Over 60	Total
Men	4	3	6	13
Women	9	9	9	27

Table 8

In common with current trends in the treatment of mental illness it is pleasing to observe that 39 of these patients were admitted informally (i.e. voluntarily), and only one compulsorily under Section 25 of the Mental Health Act.

Private Housing Complaints received	205
Council Housing Complaints received	73
Miscellaneous Complaints received	75
Visits to houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts	583
Revisits to houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts	603
Visits in connection with Improvement Grants	132
Miscellaneous Visits	312
Visits to Slaughterhouses	19
Inspections under the Shops Act	130
Investigation and visits re Food Premises	148
Ice cream Samples Taken	24
Water Samples Taken	33
Investigation and visits re infectious diseases	140
Disinfestation and disinfestation visits	43
Visits to Caravan Site	10
Inspection of Factories	2
Inspection of Swimming Baths	49
Inspection under the Rent Act	2

Table 9

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE AREA

Table No. 9 lists the inspections carried out by the inspectors of the department during the year.

1. Sewage Disposal.

(a) Brynmenyn Sewage Works and Farm.

The greater part of the sewage of your area, and also that from those parts of Gilfach Goch in the Llantrisant and Llantwit Fardre Rural District and the Rhondda Urban District, is treated at the Brynmenyn Works and Farm.

In Table 10 are listed the results of investigations carried out by the Public Health Department on the effluent from the works and on river water below the farm during the year, and the accompanying comments of the County Analyst. These indicate very clearly the unsatisfactory state of the effluent and the resultant contamination of the River Ogmore.

REPORT ON CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF SEWAGE AND EFFLUENT

	Crude Sewage Entry to Tanks A	Tank Effluent Brynmennyn Entry to River B	Ditch Brynmennyn Sewage Farm C	River Below entry at Brynmennyn D	Shwt Sewage Inlet Crude E	Shwt Effluent Outlet F
Appearance	Very turbid	Very turbid	Very turbid	Very turbid	Very turbid	Slightly turbid
pH. value	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.9
Reaction	Almost neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Almost neutral	Almost neutral
Total Suspended matter	102	44	64	60	256	20
(a) Loss on ignition	84	36	52	50	206	14
(b) Ash	18	8	12	10	50	6
Chlorides (expressed as Cl)	36	32	30	32	59	40
Nitrates (expressed as N)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	9.5
Nitrites (expressed as N)	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.160
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	9.52	10.32	8.90	11.48	16.90	0.68
Albuminoid Nitrogen	3.08	2.28	2.84	4.72	4.96	0.64
Permanganate (N/80) Value,						
3 mins at 27°C	Putrefactive	Slightly	Putrefactive	Slightly	Strongly	Non-
(a) Before incubation	11.2	Putrefactive	8.6	Putrefactive	Putrefactive	Putrefactive
(b) After incubation (5 days)	30.0	7.0	26.4	7.6	23.4	4.0
Permanganate (N/80) Value,						
4 hours at 27°C	24.0	21.0	26.4	18.0	52.6	5.0
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	244	13.2	23.6	16.4	113.0	8.8
Settleable solids		63	155	112	1,280	8
(mls./1,000 mls./1 hr.)	2.5	0.5	2.0	1.0	5	0.1

Table 10

Remarks : A. A putrefactive crude sewage of average strength.

B. A slightly putrefactive weak sewage which has been partially treated by settlement.

C. A putrefactive crude sewage of average strength.

D. A slightly putrefactive water containing a considerable amount of unoxidised crude sewage, and is very bad quality for a river water.

E. A very strong crude sewage.

F. A non-putrefactive sewage effluent of satisfactory composition.

In view of this, and the fact that the long awaited Joint Sewerage Scheme is not due to operate for another seven years, Consultant Engineers, in collaboration with Consultant Chemists, were commissioned by the Council during the year to prepare a scheme for modernising the works to cover this intervening period.

As a result it is proposed approximately to double the capacity of the sedimentation tanks and to provide additional sludge-beds. In addition a system of aeration sprinklers is to be installed on the farm in order to make the final treatment of the settled sewage more efficient.

It is confidently expected that these measures at a cost of approximately £60,000 will bring the works and farm up to the required standard for this intervening period, and it is hoped that these much-needed improvements will be carried out during 1967.

(b) **Shwt Sewage Works.**

The sewage works at Shwt is a more modern installation built to serve the large number of new houses built by the Council in Betws.

It has some defects. For example the sludge beds are set too low, and the resultant seepage of water into them makes them difficult to dry. In addition, a considerable amount of surface water finds its way into the inflow sewer in wet weather resulting in levels of up to 500,000 gallons daily, and causing the storm tank to overflow.

Nevertheless, the works is efficient and the effluent has shown a consistently high level of purification. Table 10 shows the results of investigations carried out during the year.

(c) **Betws Sewage Works.**

This is a small works built to serve the prefabricated bungalows in East and West Side, Betws. Redevelopment of this area is now proposed, resulting in the replacement of the bungalows with, eventually, 90 houses in East Side and 192 in West Side. As a result the existing works will be inadequate and will need to be extended in the future.

(d) **Bryngarw Caravan Site.**

The sewage from this site is purified in two small settlement tanks nearby. On account of their proximity to the site it is important that they are regularly desludged.

(e) **Lletty Brongu.**

Progress was made on the planning side during 1966 to provide adequate sewage disposal facilities for this hamlet.

2. Refuse Disposal.

The two main tips are at Lewistown and Llangeinor, and collections are made twice weekly in all parts of the district.

Tipping was commenced at Llangeinor during the year, on low-lying agricultural land subject to flooding. The site is a satisfactory one, away from dwellinghouses and with an adequate supply of soil for covering purposes.

The Lewistown tip is not so well placed, being situated very near to two establishments where food is consumed, as well as to food shops and houses. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the following rules for tipping, as laid down by the Ministry of Health, are followed :—

- (i) Refuse to be deposited in layers not exceeding six feet in depth.
- (ii) All surfaces exposed to the air to be covered with nine inches of earth.
- (iii) Not more than 100 sq. yds. to be uncovered at any one time or for longer than seventy-two hours.
- (iv) Screens to be provided to prevent wind dispersal.

To this may be added the importance in your area of preventing sheep from gaining access to the sites by adequate fencing.

It is obvious that the maintenance of the tips in the manner described above requires the constant services of a competent and conscientious caretaker supplied with adequate earth moving equipment.

3. Water Supply.

The bulk of the water supply to your area comes from upland sources, of which there are four in the Garw Valley, three in the Ogmre and three in the Dimbath. In dry weather the supply is supplemented if necessary from the Schwyll source. In addition there are three smaller sources—Cwm-nant-y-ci serving the Pantyrwel district; Glynogwr; and Hendre Ifan Goch serving Evanstown.

The Mid-Glamorgan Water Board is responsible for the supply, and your Council is represented on the Board in conjunction with representatives of the other local authorities in the Mid-Glamorgan area.

The Board samples all these sources at least fortnightly, and a satisfactory bacteriological report is the rule. Where a report is less than satisfactory an immediate investigation is carried out to determine the cause of the contamination and the sample is repeated.

Only one source, Cwm-nant-y-ci, is considered to have plumbosolvent action and the supply is treated with soda-ash. Chemical analysis of water from this source during the year showed lead to be absent. The laying of lead pipes is prohibited by the Board's bye-laws.

The fluoride content of the water is negligible, being in the neighbourhood of 0.04 parts per million.

There are no stand-pipes within the district.

Sampling of the water supply was carried out on a small scale by the Health Department, with special attention being given to farms and houses not connected to the Water Board supply. The result of bacteriological examination of such water is given below :—

Site	Probable No. of Coliforms/ 100 ml.	Probable No. of Faecal Coli/100 ml.	Remarks
1. A Farm, Llangeinor	90	90	Unsatisfactory
2. Mountain Spring, Llangeinor	8	5	Suspicious
3. Storage Tank, Lletty Brongu	3	0	Satisfactory
4. Tap, Lletty Brongu	1	0	Satisfactory
5. Blandy Terrace, Pontycymer	2	2	Satisfactory

Table 11

Where unsatisfactory results were obtained the consumers were informed and instructed how to improve the supply to prevent contamination.

4. Swimming Baths.

Two swimming baths are maintained, a closed bath in in Ogmore Vale and an open air bath at Pontycymer.

The Bath at Ogmore Vale was recently reconstructed and the water is adequately filtered and chlorinated. The water was regularly sampled for bacteriological and chemical analysis, and satisfactory results were obtained in every case.

The Pontycymer bath is supplied from a mountain stream and does not undergo purification. Sampling yielded generally good results, although one collected on 12/7/66 from the deep end of the pool yielded a probable count of nine coliforms and nine faecal coli per 100 ml., a result classified as "suspicious."

Work is due to start on a new pool at Llangeinor in 1967 which will render that at Pontycymer redundant.

5. Housing.

There can be no doubt that poor housing conditions constitute the major environmental problem in your area. One evidence of this is the stream of complaints and appeals for rehousing received by the Health Department. The bulk of the housing was constructed before 1914. It was often of a poor quality and has been inadequately maintained, and much of it is in urgent need of replacement.

To meet this need the Council is engaged upon the most ambitious building programme in its history, and during the year a further 73 houses were completed, 69 in Lewistown and four in Betws. In addition two houses were built by private enterprise, one in Betws and one in Glynogwr.

The Lewistown project, which will provide 177 dwellings when completed, must be singled out for special praise. On what was an unpromising site, there is being built an estate of distinction and attractiveness. It was fitting that this project earned a Gold Medal for Good Design from the Welsh Office.

Another aspect of housing is the provision of suitable accommodation for the elderly. The proportion of the population of your district over 65 years has risen from about 1 in 50 in 1911 to about 1 in 8 today, and is likely to rise still higher. It is a characteristic of recent years that the elderly find themselves living alone or in pairs in old houses designed for large families which they do not have the financial resources to maintain. The extent of the problem of under-occupancy was the subject of a survey carried out by students in the area during the year, and it yielded the following results :—

(a) Houses occupied by only one person :

- 67 houses with 2 bedrooms.
- 353 houses with 3 bedrooms.
- 64 houses with 4 bedrooms.
- 3 houses with 5 bedrooms.

Total : 487 persons living alone, of whom
293 were O.A.P.'s.

(b) Houses occupied by two persons only :

779 houses with 3 bedrooms.

120 houses with 4 bedrooms.

6 houses with 5 bedrooms.

8 houses with 6 bedrooms.

1 house with 7 bedrooms.

Total : 914 houses with two occupants, of which
308 were occupied by O.A.P.'s.

Thus there are 1,400 under-occupied houses, 600 of which are occupied by O.A.P.'s.

The elderly have a reputation for independence and a dislike of change. However it is my experience that when such people are offered suitable modern accommodation, such as an old person's bungalow, and in the area in which they have always lived, a very large number are most pleased to accept, vacating at the same time houses suitable for larger families. I receive a large number of requests for consideration on medical or social grounds for a tenancy in the pensioner's flats and bungalows now being built by the council.

I am grateful to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. A. Sadler for the following comments on housing matters :—

Housing matters continue to take up a large proportion of the department's time and with the speeding up of council house building in the district, it has been possible to progress with the programme for demolition and closing of unfit dwellings. Three areas comprising 47 houses in Evanstown were declared Clearance Areas. Three smaller areas comprising 17 houses were also dealt with in this way.

Whilst dealing with the worst houses by demolition or closing, it is most important to conserve and improve the better type of older house. In practice the most difficult problem to deal with is the better type of house which, through prolonged lack of maintenance, has become an uneconomical proposition to repair. In certain cases the Council has acquired such houses and this practice should be continued wherever appropriate.

Housing Statistics :

(a) Number of houses built :

(i) By Local Authority :

69 houses in Lewistown.

4 houses in Betws.

(ii) By Private Enterprise :

1 house in Betws.

1 house in Glynogwr.

(b) Housing Inspections :

Total number of houses inspected	.....	.....	.....	288
Council Houses	.....	.....	.....	73
Revisits.....	.....	.....	.....	603

(c) Public Health Acts.

Number of houses rendered fit after service of notice :

	Informal Notice	Formal Notice
(i) Rendered fit by owner	..... 42	..... 39
(ii) Rendered fit by local authority	—	3

(d) Houses beyond repair at reasonable cost :

(i) Individual Houses :

Undertakings accepted	1
Closing Orders made.....	6 (including one basement)
Houses demolished	..... 2
No. of people displaced	8

(ii) Clearance Areas.

No. of Clearance areas	5
Houses unfit for human habitation	..... 64
Houses included by reason of bad arrangement —

No. of houses demolished 16

(e) Improvement Areas Nil

(f) Improvement Grants :

(i) Standard Grants :

	Owner/ Occupied		Tenanted	
No. of Applications approved	5pt. 22	3pt. —	5pt. 2	3pt. —
No. of Dwellings improved	11	—	1	—
Amounts paid—£1,679	0s.	0d.		
Average grant per house—£139	18s.	4d.		
Amenities provided—Fixed Bath	.....	.....	12	
Wash Hand Basin	.....	.....	12	
Hot Water Supply	.....	.....	11	
W.C.	.....	.....	10	
Food Store	.....	.....	8	

(ii) Discretionary Grants.

	Owner/occupied	Tenanted
No. of Applications approved	5	31
No. of Dwellings improved	7	32
Amounts paid—£13,317 0s. 0d.		
Average grant per house—£341 9s. 0d.		

(iii) National Coal Board.

The Board improved 54 of its houses in the area during the year, April 1966—April 1967.

A number of council houses and flats were allocated and transfers effected on medical grounds. I should like to thank the House Letting Sub-Committees for their co-operation in dealing with these cases.

6. Slaughterhouses.

There is one small slaughterhouse licensed in your area, and during the year 201 sheep and 3 pigs were killed.

The following table shows the details of animals inspected together with condemnations :—

	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	201	3
Number not inspected	—	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :		
Whole Carcases condemned	11	—
Some part or organ condemned	4-1	—
Tuberculosis only	—	—
Cysticerci	—	—

Table 12

7. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The food shops, stalls and vehicles of your district are inspected regularly, and during the year 148 visits were made to such premises. There were no prosecutions under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

The following unsound food was surrendered or condemned during the year :—

	cwt.	lbs.
Meat at Slaughterhouses	—	36
Meat at Retail Shops	1	41
Cooked Meats and Meat products	—	47
Canned Meats	2	11
Fish	1	25
Fruit and Vegetables	—	104
Other Foods	—	49

Ice-Cream.

24 samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological testing, and the results according to the Methylene Blue Test were as follows :—

Grade I (Satisfactory)	18
Grade II (Fair)	3
Grade III (Unsatisfactory)	2
Grade IV (Very Unsatisfactory)	1

The Ice-cream Regulations do not require bacteriological testing, but the Methylene Blue Test is a useful guide to standards of hygiene in the preparation and distribution of ice-cream. The manufacturer whose product was shown to be unsatisfactory was informed of this.

Milk.

One farmer in your area is licensed to sell unpasteurised milk under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963.

8. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

There were 95 premises registered under this Act at the end of the year. 46 of these received a general inspection, and a total of 130 visits were made by the inspectors of the department.

The contraventions to the Act were as follows :—

	No. of Contraventions
Section 4. Cleanliness	9
Section 6. Temperature	11
Section 7. Ventilation	4
Section 8. Lighting	1
Section 9. Sanitary Conveniences	5
Section 10. Washing Facilities	5
Section 12. Clothing Accommodation	2
Section 13. Sitting Facilities	1
Section 16. Floors, Passages and Stairs	6
Section 24. First Aid, General Provisions	8
TOTAL	52

No prosecutions were instituted under the Act during the year.

Accidents.

Three accidents were reported, all non-fatal and occurring in retail shops. Two were falls and one caused by misuse of hand tools. No action was required.

9. Rodent Control.

PREMISES TREATED

Dwelling Houses	150
Business Premises	14
Local Authority Premises	151

TYPE OF INFESTATION

Rats—Major	Nil
Minor	303
Mice—Major	Nil
Minor	12

Table 13

In addition, Mr. Emrys Pritchard, the Rodent Operative, dealt with a large number of other animal and insect pests, as well as helping in the general work of the department, and I wish to pay tribute to the efficient and conscientious way in which he carried out his duties.

10. Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	31	2	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	1	—	—
TOTAL	43	3	1	—

Table 14

2.—Cases in which **DEFECTS** were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary convenience (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	1	—

Table 15

Under **PART VIII OF THE ACT** there were no out-workers.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1966

<i>Diseases</i>	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	9	10	3	2	23	30	9	17	4	—	1	3	111
Dysentery	12	11	10	7	5	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	50
Pneumonia	—	3	3	5	3	4	—	1	1	—	2	2	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
Scarlet Fever	5	2	3	1	7	2	1	4	1	2	5	3	36
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3
Whooping Cough	5	11	8	5	—	1	2	—	2	3	1	—	38
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED THROUGHOUT THE WARDS DURING 1966

	B	P	B-P	N	T	A	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	1	3	4	28	—	36
Measles	3	11	20	26	43	8	111
Pneumonia	—	—	1	6	17	—	24
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Sonne Dysentery	2	1	9	3	35	—	50
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	2	—	3
Whooping Cough	—	—	5	1	32	—	38
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING FOR 1966

Causative Agent	General Outbreaks		Family Outbreaks		Sporadic Cases	Total No. of outbreaks and sporadic cases columns (1 + 3 + 5)	Total No. of cases columns (2 + 4 + 5)
	No. of separate outbreaks	No. of cases notified or ascertained	No. of separate outbreaks	No. of cases notified or ascertained			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. <i>S. Typhimurium</i>	—	—	—	—	2	2	2
2. Other <i>Salmonellae</i> (a)	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
3. <i>Cl. welchii</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. <i>Staph. aureus</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Other causes (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Cause Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. TOTAL	—	—	—	—	3	3	3
(a) Type of <i>Salmonellae</i> Liverpool	—	—	—	—	1	1	1

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1966.

Estimated Population 1966	Births			Deaths			Infant Mortality		Peri Natal Mortality	
	Number of Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	Adjusted	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population	Adjusted	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week	Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births
England and Wales	48,075,300	...	17.70	563,626	...	11.70	16,147	...	22,747	26.30
Administrative County	764,000	...	17.10	9,401	...	12.30	271	...	396	30.38
Urban Districts	526,040	...	17.01	6,631	...	12.61	192	...	282	31.86
Rural Districts	237,960	...	17.47	2,770	...	11.64	79	...	114	27.25
Health Division Constituent Districts										
Aberdare and Aberdare Urban	38,700	...	17.07	582	...	15.04	15	...	26	41.87
Mountain Ash Mountain Ash Urban	29,300	...	17.37	372	...	12.70	15	...	18	34.62
Caerphilly and Caerphilly Urban	38,040	...	20.97	430	...	11.30	25	...	34	41.06
Gelligaer	35,000	...	18.80	413	...	11.80	13	...	23	34.28
Mid-Glam.	15,100	...	15.76	181	...	11.99	3	...	7	29.79
Maesteg Urban	21,430	...	17.13	261	...	12.18	5	...	10	27.70
Ogmore and Garw Urban	20,670	...	15.94	261	...	12.63	9	...	12	39.88
Porteawll Urban	12,540	...	22.15	168	...	13.40	5	...	2	8.03
Penybont Rural	46,650	...	20.37	599	...	12.84	23	...	25	25.00
Neath and Neath M.B.	30,200	...	15.50	404	...	13.38	6	...	11	24.07
District Neath Rural	40,910	...	15.96	456	...	11.15	15	...	28	43.55
Pontypridd & Llantrisant Rural	29,500	...	18.71	288	...	9.76	15	...	20	33.73
Llantrisant Pontypridd Urban	35,090	...	16.14	433	...	12.34	11	...	16	28.32
Port Talbot & Glyncoerrwg Urban	9,460	...	19.58	105	...	11.10	8	...	9	45.68
Glyncoerrwg Port Talbot M.B.	51,800	...	15.14	586	...	11.31	14	...	24	29.70
South East Barry M.B.	42,430	...	17.04	489	...	11.52	12	...	18	25.28
Cardiff Rural	54,410	...	15.74	680	...	12.50	8	...	17	18.97
Cowbridge M.B.	1,140	...	18.60	13	...	11.40	—	...	—	—
Cowbridge Rural	21,260	...	18.82	165	...	7.76	8	...	9	23.56
Penarth Urban	21,950	...	19.44	297	...	13.53	7	...	12	29.85
West Glam.	15,100	...	18.38	165	...	10.93	4	...	6	22.99
Llwehwr Urban	25,470	...	16.68	322	...	12.64	8	...	8	20.00
Pontardawe Rural	30,130	...	15.14	417	...	13.84	6	...	9	22.00
Rhondda Rhondda M.B.	97,720	...	15.23	1,314	...	13.45	36	...	51	34.51

